



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICE
SHIPS
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IN REPLY REFER TO

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Ser 377/516
9 Oct 07

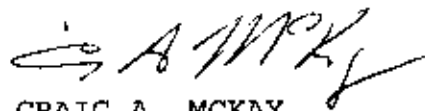
From: Program Manager, Amphibious Warfare Program
To: Commander, USNS APACHE (T-ATF-172)

Subj: LETTER OF APPRECIATION FOR CREW OF USNS APACHE (T-ATF-172)

1. It is my great pleasure to recognize the crew of USNS APACHE for the outstanding contributions they have made to the LHA(R) Live Fire Test and Evaluation (LFT&E) program, specifically in support of the recently-conducted Weapon Effects Test (WET) of ex-SAIPAN.

2. This WET was the first such test that began with an operational Fleet asset, proceeded through demobilization and decommissioning (concurrently preparing the ship for testing), transited to final test preparation site, and then underwent a most successful test series, all in 19 months. Throughout the preparation and operational phases of this process, USS APACHE was able to support comprehensive and safety-oriented procedures and operations that involved movement of a complex Naval ship, test-related equipment, and high explosive test charges. USNS APACHE's efforts significantly contributed to the successful conduct of the WET, and will support continuation of future ship tests with confidence in our ability to maintain safe and successful test operations.

3. These accomplishments represent a small portion of USNS APACHE's outstanding support to the Amphibious Warfare Program Office (PMS377). USNS APACHE's accomplishments will result in a significant benefit not only to this Program Office, but the entire Navy, as the results from this WET are incorporated into current and future ship design programs. I offer my sincerest thanks for a job well done.


CRAIG A. MCKAY
By direction